

# Weekly National Intelligence.

WASHINGTON: SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1857.

NO. 1,115

## WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

BY GALE & SEATON.

The subscription price of this paper for a year is THREE DOLLARS, payable in advance. For the long Sessions of Congress, (averaging eight months,) the price will be Two Dollars; for the short Sessions One Dollar per copy.

A reduction of 20 per cent. (one-fifth of the full charge) will be made to any one who shall order and pay for, at one time, five copies of the Weekly paper; and a like reduction of 25 per cent. (one-fourth of the full charge) to any one who will order and pay for, at one time, ten or more copies.

No account being kept for this paper, it will not be sent or mailed to any one unless paid for in advance, nor any longer than the time for which it is paid.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1857.

## THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The immense donations of public land made of late years by Congress to corporations within the new States have awakened the attention of the people of the old States to the subject, and of Virginia especially, where the system of taxation for land is of general interest at this time.

At the commencement of the Revolutionary war there belonged to some of the States large tracts of wild and unappropriated lands, whilst in others none such existed. The States possessing no such lands claimed that, as the war was waged with united means and equal sacrifices, the waste lands which might be conquered from the enemy should become common property, and, under the recommendations of Congress, 10th October, 1789, "that the unappropriated lands which might be ceded to the United States by any particular State, pursuant to the recommendation of Congress of the 10th of September last, shall be disposed of for the common benefit of the United States."

Virginia promptly made a cession of her vast domain north of the river Ohio, out of which six States have since been formed. The condition of her cession (adopted substantially by other States) was, that the lands conveyed "shall be considered as a common fund for the use and benefit of such of the United States as have become or shall become members of the confederacy or federal alliance of the said States, Virginia inclusive, according to their usual respective proportions in the general charge and expenditure, and shall be faithfully and bona fide disposed of for that purpose, and for no other use or purpose whatever." Thus were the lands ceded, accepted, and held in trust. How they have since been disposed of, in total disregard of the conditions of the trust, the history of the country tells in the annals of Congressional legislation.

In disregard of the plain obligations of the trust, President JACKSON, in the early days of his administration, proposed to cede the lands thus acquired, and all subsequently purchased, to the States in which they lay, gratuitously or for a nominal price.

To counteract this movement, which at that time met with no favor in Congress, but which has since been substantially adopted in the system of partial grants, Mr. CLAY introduced his well-known distribution bill, which was passed by Congress on the 24th day of March, 1833, by a vote of 24 to 20 in the Senate, and 96 to 40 in the House of Representatives. This bill President JACKSON refused to approve, and it did not become a law, the popular will, as indicated by the vote of the House, to the contrary notwithstanding. Some of the Western members did not hesitate to avow the purpose of eventually appropriating to the States in which they held all the public lands, and one of the most eminent of them declared that after the census of 1850 the power to do so would be irresistible. The fulfillment of this menace is almost complete, and after the census of 1860 the old States will be utterly powerless unless they unite cordially for their common protection.

The whole amount of money which would have gone into the Treasury of Virginia, under the provisions of Mr. CLAY's land bill, from 1832 to 1839, a period of seven years, would have been four million three hundred and sixty-nine thousand one hundred and sixty-nine dollars, or for each year seven hundred and twenty-eight thousand one hundred and ninety-four dollars.

On September 4, 1841, an act was passed to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands amongst the several States. The first section provided that from and after the 31st December, 1841, there should "be allowed and paid to each of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Michigan, over and above what each of the said States is entitled to by the terms of the compact entered into between them and the United States, upon their admission into the Union, the sum of ten per centum upon the net proceeds of the sales of the public lands, which, subsequent to the day aforesaid, shall be made within the limits of each of said States respectively."

After deducting the said per centum, the residue of the net proceeds was to be divided amongst the then twenty-six States of the Union and the District of Columbia, and the Territories of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Florida, according to their respective federal representative population, as ascertained by the last census, (1840,) to be applied by the Legislatures of the said States to such purposes as the said Legislatures might direct, provided that the distributive share to which the District of Columbia shall be entitled should be applied to free schools or education in some other form, as Congress might direct. In the sixth section of the act there was a proviso that if at any time there should be an imposition of duties consistent with the act of March 2, 1833, beyond the rate of duty, (twenty per centum,) fixed by that act, the distribution should be suspended until this cause should be removed.

The proceeds were thus divided for one year,

and accepted by all the States, we believe, except Virginia. The Legislature of that State refused to receive the forty thousand dollars for that year, (a much smaller sum than the average would have been had the law been continued,) on the ground that it was an attempt on the part of Congress to corrupt the people of the State by gifts from the Federal Treasury.

By the operation of the act of August 4, 1842, to provide revenue from imports, &c., the distribution of the net proceeds of the public lands among the States was suspended. The proceeds of the lands up to and including the 1st of January, 1849, amounted to the sum of \$57,237,520.

The following sums since received:

In 1839 the sum of.....	\$7,076,447
1840.....	8,292,683
1841.....	1,365,627
1842.....	1,235,767
1843.....	807,812
1844.....	4,085,389
1845.....	3,071,022
1846.....	2,436,855
1847.....	3,328,642
1848.....	1,689,959
1849.....	1,859,894
1850.....	2,552,205
1851.....	2,043,239
1852.....	1,067,084
1853.....	8,470,708
1854.....	11,407,049
1855.....	8,917,044

Total to July 1, 1856.....\$122,811,274

Of this grand total, if now distributed under Mr. CLAY's land bill, the State of Virginia would receive the handsome sum of NINE MILLIONS THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE DOLLARS, (omitting fractions.) This sum, divided by thirteen, would give for each Congressional district in Virginia seven hundred and eighteen thousand two hundred and ninety dollars.

To bring the subject more directly home to the people, we present another view of the distribution. The total Federal population of Virginia, by the census of 1850, was one million one hundred and five thousand five hundred and forty-four, counting three-fifths of the colored population. Apportion the foregoing sum of \$9,337,773 amongst the several counties of the State and the result will be as follows:

Accomack.....	\$126,575	Louisiana.....	\$106,288
Albemarle.....	161,721	Lunenburg.....	78,829
Alexandria.....	70,322	Mason.....	62,342
Alleghany.....	27,313	Marion.....	88,745
Amelia.....	58,925	Marshall.....	85,332
Amherst.....	88,483	Mason.....	68,965
Appomattox.....	61,221	Mathews.....	46,330
Augusta.....	188,590	Mecklenburg.....	120,621
Baileys.....	70,397	Mercer.....	34,970
Bathurst.....	24,583	Middlesex.....	28,709
Bedford.....	187,336	Monongalia.....	103,627
Berkeley.....	58,239	Monroe.....	82,334
Boone.....	26,724	Montgomery.....	65,408
Bolton.....	111,854	Morgan.....	29,620
Botetourt.....	37,700	Murphy.....	38,977
Bradford.....	23,240	Nelson.....	28,236
Brunswick.....	86,920	New Kent.....	82,336
Buckingham.....	85,699	Nicholas.....	32,974
Cabell.....	51,868	Orangetown.....	236,099
Campbell.....	138,461	Orange.....	64,403
Caroline.....	119,811	Orangetown.....	236,099
Carroll.....	49,292	Orangetown.....	236,099
Charles City.....	32,822	Orangetown.....	236,099
Charlotte.....	86,346	Orangetown.....	236,099
Chesterfield.....	117,041	Orangetown.....	236,099
Clarke.....	49,469	Orangetown.....	236,099
Calverton.....	73,513	Orangetown.....	236,099
Cumtland.....	59,833	Orangetown.....	236,099
Dinwiddie.....	186,536	Orangetown.....	236,099
Dorchester.....	28,125	Orangetown.....	236,099
Elizabeth City.....	31,106	Orangetown.....	236,099
Essex.....	61,978	Orangetown.....	236,099
Fauquier.....	77,282	Orangetown.....	236,099
Fayette.....	139,119	Orangetown.....	236,099
Floyd.....	32,813	Orangetown.....	236,099
Frederick.....	58,000	Orangetown.....	236,099
Franklin.....	68,448	Orangetown.....	236,099
Frederick.....	107,048	Orangetown.....	236,099
Giles.....	58,093	Orangetown.....	236,099
Gilmer.....	29,114	Orangetown.....	236,099
Gloucester.....	67,849	Orangetown.....	236,099
Goodland.....	69,517	Orangetown.....	236,099
Grayson.....	116,811	Orangetown.....	236,099
Greene.....	79,859	Orangetown.....	236,099
Greenlee.....	32,155	Orangetown.....	236,099
Greenville.....	34,427	Orangetown.....	236,099
Halifax.....	168,655	Orangetown.....	236,099
Hampshire.....	112,952	Orangetown.....	236,099
Harrison.....	100,578	Orangetown.....	236,099
Henrico.....	76,148	Orangetown.....	236,099
Henry.....	97,318	Orangetown.....	236,099
Hughes.....	301,313	Orangetown.....	236,099
Isle of Wight.....	62,360	Orangetown.....	236,099
Jackson.....	34,384	Orangetown.....	236,099
James City.....	63,313	Orangetown.....	236,099
Jefferson.....	55,061	Orangetown.....	236,099
Johns River.....	25,406	Orangetown.....	236,099
King George.....	113,221	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	118,518	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	66,128	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	35,083	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	56,151	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	30,085	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	88,922	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	88,339	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	30,258	Orangetown.....	236,099
King William.....	162,844	Orangetown.....	236,099

We refer to Virginia, in this case, because a large portion of the public domain was her munificent gift to the Union, and because her politicians are quietly looking on whilst the condition of the trust is totally disregarded and perverted. But the people themselves, we perceive, are taking the matter in hand, and this brief notice may give them something for calm reflection at their firesides.

Among the departures in the next steamer for Europe we announced the names of M. and Madame GARDNER, BOULEAU, who leave us for a far distant home in the East. M. BOULEAU has been named to Calcutta, a post of distinction and responsibility; and, judging from the ability and amiable courtesy with which he has filled the post of Chargé d'Affaires near our own Government, we are confident that his Imperial Majesty could not have selected a gentleman whose learning and varied attainments better qualified him for the representative of France. His accomplished wife, the daughter of one of our most distinguished statesmen, will leave a void in our social circles, but by her talents will lend an increased interest to her husband's mission. We sincerely wish them bon voyage, with ever-continued health and prosperity!

OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI ROAD.—The Vincennes Gazette of the 17th instant says that the last rail from Vincennes to Mitchell, on the Ohio and Mississippi road, was to be laid on that day. About twelve or fifteen miles of track are yet to be laid between Mitchell and Seymour, and there will be a continuous and almost air-line road between Cincinnati and St. Louis, and the whole distance will be travelled in ten or twelve hours.

## GENERAL NEWS LETTERS.

FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK, MARCH 21, 1857.

The correspondence of New York journals received by the steamship Tennessee contains a mass of information in detail as to the state of affairs at Nicaragua, but nothing to indicate any material change, either for better or worse, in the position of Gen. Walker and his followers. On the side of the Isthmus Col. Lockridge does not appear to have made any progress in his effort to force his way up the river, and Col. Titus, of Kansas, who, from whom so much aid was anticipated, had retired in disgrace. On the Pacific side, although two or three engagements are reported, Walker's prospects had not improved, as he was still hampered by his enemies, and was threatened with revolt in his own ranks. The arrival of the steamer Saratoga at San Juan del Norte is supposed to be being regularly acceptable to the Americans, though it is intimated that her coming is intended to follow a course of action which is not approved by the British Government. As the Tennessee did not touch at San Juan on her return trip from Aspinwall, the Nicaragua dates only come down to the 7th instant, so that the news is really very little later than that previously received by way of Havana.

A letter from Panama contains a rumor that Mr. BOWLIN, United States Minister to New Granada, and Mr. MORSE, the Special Commissioner, had asked for their passports in consequence of the terms they were authorized to propose for the settlement of the pending difficulties having been rejected by the New Granadian Cabinet. The writer, without vouching for the truth of the statement, says that it is just as likely to be true as not.

The Legislature of New Jersey has adjourned without doing anything to meet the advances of this State in regard to a removal of the quarantine establishment. Indeed, matters have been made worse by the passage of a bill forbidding, under heavy penalties, the anchorage of infected vessels anywhere within New Jersey jurisdiction.

The French Consul General in this city officially announces that the Government of the Emperor has decided that the Universal Agricultural Exposition, which was appointed to be opened at Paris on the 1st of June next, shall not take place this year.

The footings of the recent election in New Hampshire have been about perfected, and show a majority against the Democrats of 3,638 to 6,189 in November last. The total vote of the State is less by nearly six thousand than at the Presidential contest, the falling off being perceptible on both sides, although heaviest in the Republican ranks.

The Republican general committees of this city are exercising themselves considerably in regard to the late decision of the United States Supreme Court, and at their next meetings manifestos in regard to the matter will doubtless be furnished, sub-committees having been charged with the preparation of the necessary resolutions. A proposition has also been started to hold a public meeting on the subject at the Academy of Music, but no definite arrangement has been come to.

Dr. WILLIAM YATES, who is claimed to have been the first person to introduce vaccination into the United States, died a few days since at his residence in Orange county, in this State, at the venerable age of ninety years.

Private advices from Key West mention that a part of a company belonging to the 5th regiment United States infantry, under command of Capt. STEPHENSON, had had a sharp encounter near the Big Cypress Swamp with a party of Indians supposed to have been nearly a hundred strong. Five soldiers were killed, and Lieut. FREEMAN was believed to be mortally wounded; while the Indians, who beat a retreat, left eight of their number dead on the field.

A letter from Lagunayra, Venezuela, reports the arrival at Caracas of Mr. SANDFORD, bearer of a peremptory demand from Secretary MARCY upon the Government of Venezuela to make reparation to certain citizens of the United States for their illegal expulsion from the guano islands in the Caribbean sea. President MONTEZUMA is said to have emphatically repudiated the demand. From the same source we learn that Americans in Venezuela were highly indignant at a clause in the recently negotiated treaty which rendered them liable to the performance of military duty in the Venezuelan service.

It appears that our custom-house authorities have been rather "sold" in their recent seizure of what they supposed was some two thousand dollars' worth of diamonds and precious stones, further examination showing that the treasures were mostly pebbles, worth a mere trifle. The smugglers have been discharged on their own recognizances.

NEW YORK, MARCH 22—P. M.

A voluminous and very comprehensive report has recently been published by the Railroad Commissioners of this State. Amongst other interesting statistics contained in it are the following: That the dividends paid on the completed roads throughout the State average 4 to 8 per cent. on the aggregate capital stock; that the double track laid is equal to nearly one-fourth of the whole length of the roads, and the sidings to one-eighth; that the total number of locomotive engines is 735, of passenger and baggage cars 900, freight cars 7,500, and persons employed 18,012; that of the whole number of persons killed eight per cent. were passengers, thirty-one per cent. employees, and sixty-one per cent. neither passengers nor employees; and that four-fifths of the passengers killed and one-third of those injured suffered in consequence of their own imprudence. A comparison of the safety of railroad travelling on the roads of this State and those of Great Britain during the last four years shows that there were a greater number of passengers killed and a less number injured upon our roads in proportion to the number carried than upon those in Great Britain.

The steamship Black Warrior, from New Orleans via Havana, arrived at this port last evening, after an unprecedented short run from the former place of six days and eleven hours, including six hours' detention at Havana. It is stated that the expedition sent by Government to the Keys on the south side of Cuba to report upon the alleged guano discoveries there had made a favorable report, both as to quantity and quality, and the islands were forthwith to be opened to the commercial world.

Another evidence of the advancement towards self-reliance which is continually going forward in California was received here by the last steamer, in the shape of some samples of loaf-sugar, made at the San Francisco sugar refinery, which are pronounced fully equal both in color and crystallization to the best productions of the refineries in the Atlantic cities. The company who have erected this new establishment purpose getting their supplies of the crude article from Manila, and to carry on the business upon such a scale as to render California independent of the large supplies of refined sugars which she has hitherto drawn from the Atlantic markets.

Amongst other important projects before our Legislature is one for the incorporation of a company to build a canal uniting Lakes Erie and Michigan, by which the water distance between Buffalo and Chicago will be nearly a thousand miles. Immense advantages are claimed for the enterprise, and justly so no doubt; but it is a work of two much magnitude to be undertaken lightly. Another proposition of the same nature looks to the construction of a canal from Rondout harbor, made West, nearly opposite Cleveland, to the river St. Lawrence above the falls. The advantages of this scheme are that it will open a safe channel between Lakes Erie and Huron, and thereby prevent the serious losses and delays which are continually occurring upon the St. Clair and the Detroit river, besides materially shortening the distance between the two lakes. The citizens of Rondout in particular are exerting themselves in this behalf.

NEW YORK, MARCH 23—P. M.

The steamship Tennessee left here to-day for Aspinwall, but although she touches at San Juan, Nicaragua, it is understood that she took out no emigrants or recruits for that place, Walker's agents, pending a settlement of the prosecution which has been commenced in the matter, having discontinued their efforts to drum up victims in these parts.

For the third time, and that too after the vessel had got to sea, the machinery of the United States steamer Dispatch gave out, and Capt. BENJAMIN and his surveying corps are still prevented by these mishaps from taking their observations on the Gulf stream.

The drooping tone which has lately pervaded our market for breadstuffs is being considerably aggravated by the resumption of navigation. There have been large arrivals from Albany during the past day or two via the Hudson river, and on our Corn Exchange this morning prices of flour, wheat, and corn all gave way, the quotations, which are quite nominal, being lower than has been the case for some time past. The absence of any foreign demand has probably more to do with the depression than the increased supplies.

A letter from Great Salt Lake city states that Judge SMILES, a Mormon United States Judge in Utah, having, as previously reported, taken a bold stand against the nefarious designs of the Mormons, and in support of law and justice, had been cut off from the church, and his office was subsequently broken into and all the books, papers, and the records of the United States Court were taken out and publicly burnt.

Incendiarism is running rampant just now on Staten Island, much to the alarm of the inhabitants of that usually well-regulated locality. About a week ago a fire broke out in a mysterious manner and consumed half a dozen small houses, and during last night no less than four fires occurred within a short distance of each other, destroying quite a number of dwellings, and entailing serious losses upon the occupants, who are ill able to bear them. The people are aroused to a sense of their danger, and are making strenuous efforts to discover the offenders.

Within the past two days three clipper ships, which left Shanghai at the same time, have arrived at this port, a remarkable instance of even sailing.

Gen. WALKER, formerly of the United States army, is reported to be about to visit this city, and to be in the West Point cadetship in his gift on some school in his public schools of his district—the selection of qualified applicants to be made by lot.

NEW YORK, MARCH 24—P. M.

The advices from Liverpool added to the depression in our breadstuffs market, which I alluded to in my last, and caused a decline in flour equal in some cases to twenty-five cents per barrel, and in wheat and corn to two or three cents per bushel. At the present rate of retrogression the standard of 1851-'52 would be speedily reached, but the presumption is that a check to the downward tendency will soon be interposed.

The stores Supply is about ready to start for the Brazil station, and will probably sail in the course of a week or so. She takes out a mail for the squadron on that station.

The bolles of the United States steamer Dispatch are pronounced incorrigible, and the projected observations on the Gulf Stream by Capt. BENJAMIN are for the present abandoned. Capt. B.'s destination is now the coast of Newfoundland, whither he will proceed shortly in the steamer Vixen, for the purpose of making surveys for the landing of the transatlantic telegraph cable, &c.

Gen. Wood, having visited the State capital to-day, both branches of the Legislature seized the opportunity to pass complimentary resolutions upon him, and inviting him to the privileges of their respective chambers. It is stated that, in view of the late frightful catastrophe at the railroad bridge near Hamilton, Canada, a thorough re-examination of the various railroad bridges and other high structures and embankments on the roads in this State has been instituted—a movement which must be regarded with satisfaction by the travelling community.

NEW YORK, MARCH 25—P. M.

In our State Assembly to-day the current resolutions in favor of the amendment of the constitution so as to abolish the property qualifications in regard to colored voters, which have already passed the Senate, were, after a debate, adopted by a vote of seventy-five against twenty-seven, the yeas being all Democrats. The Dred Scott case doubtless brought about the unanimity which actuated the Republicans in this matter; but their action is by no means indicative of the voice of the people, which will have to be pronounced at the ballot-box to render the resolutions of any avail.

The New York appointments, as unofficially announced, appear to give very general satisfaction, qualified of course by the murmuring of the disappointed and their friends. Much political animosity has been evinced against the gentleman who is designated for the collectorship, which is attributable to the unwavering prominence he assumed in the ranks of the Hardshells; but, setting this aside, the choice of the Executive appears to be very acceptable, and the duties entailed upon the incumbent will unquestionably be discharged in an efficient and energetic manner.

who was attired in the picturesque uniform of the corps to which he was attached, and who spoke the English language with considerable fluency, proved himself fully equal to the task he had undertaken, and evoked a great deal of enthusiasm in the audience, so much so indeed that when he had concluded an impromptu meeting was organized, Gen. SANDFORD presiding, and resolutions thanking the lecturer for the pleasure he had afforded and inviting him to deliver other lectures on the subject were unanimously adopted.

The ship Southampton, which left here to-day for London, took out all the paraphernalia and the employees, bipped and quadrupled, for an American circus exhibition, with which it is expected to astonish the Europeans. The scheme has been organized upon a grand scale, and includes a numerous company of Indians obtained from the Cataraugus reservation in this State.

Baron DE STROKOFF, the Russian Minister to Washington, is at present sojourning in this city.

NEW YORK, MARCH 26—P. M.

A defalcation to the extent of forty-five thousand dollars has just been discovered in the accounts of the Comptroller of the New York Central Railroad Company; but as the company hold ample security the loss will not fall upon them. The defaulter has held various State offices, his last one having been that of very important and responsible position, Superintendent of the Banking Department, and he has hitherto enjoyed a high character for integrity and honor.

An examination of his accounts shows that the irregularity has all occurred within the last four months; but what has led to it has not yet been explained. The Republican Central Committee of this city, at a special meeting last evening, adopted a series of resolutions in which they declare their dissent from the *édits* of Justice TANTY, DANIEL, WAYNE, CATROS, and CAMPBELL in their recent opinions in the case of Ired Scott, declaring that Congress has not the constitutional power to prohibit slavery in the Territories of the United States; and not only do they dissent from such *édits*, but they do not declare, with Justice McLEAN, that they "will not regard it;" that the opinion can have no binding effect as a precedent upon the Court itself, nor upon any other court, nor upon any other department of the Government, as it is opposed to the decisions of both State and national courts, to the principles of the English common law, and also to justice and humanity, while it has given aid and countenance to a sectional political controversy, and impaired the general confidence with which the decisions of the Supreme Court have been hitherto regarded.

That pride of the Hudson, the steamer Isaac Newton, while on her passage up to Albany on Tuesday night, ran aground during a thick fog near Caldwell's, and now lies head on a rock in a dangerous position, with the water over her promenade deck. Her passengers, freight, and cabin furniture were taken off in safety by other steamers, and a powerful floating derrick was sent up the river to-day to aid in getting her off. The Newton is a four-decker, measures over four hundred feet in length, and is valued at about a quarter of a million dollars. As yet she has sustained but slight damage, and her owners are in hopes of having her afloat and again in running order in the course of a few days.

At an auction sale of valuable oil paintings to-day the portraits of Presidents MADISON and MONROE, painted by Gilbert Stuart, were sold for \$600 each. They are companions of the three other portraits of our early Presidents, which were destroyed by the burning of the Congressional Library at Washington a few years since. Some choice landscapes by American and English artists were knocked down at prices ranging from \$400 to \$700 apiece.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

A letter to New York from Genoa reports the arrival at that port, on the 28th ultimo, of the United States steamer Susequahanna, the necessity for her presence at Naples having apparently ceased. The United States ship Congress was likewise at Genoa, and had been visited, on the invitation of the Commodore, by the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia and suite, the scene being one of much brilliancy and cordiality.

It is stated that during the recent cruise of the steam-frigate Merrimack thirty cases of yellow fever occurred on board, five of them proving fatal. Purser McCLAIR was among the victims.

About five hundred men are at present employed in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The machinery of the Princeton is being removed, in order to adapt her as a receiving ship, instead of the Union, sunk some time since. The Minnesota steam-frigate is almost fit for service. The Saranac is still on the dry-dock, and her repairs, when complete, will have rendered her almost a new vessel. The Preble will be sent to Annapolis as a school-ship, to accommodate the pupils of the Naval Academy, as soon as her repairs are complete. A new steamer for the lighthouse board is in course of construction, and one for the Coast Survey is in contemplation.

FLORIDA NEWS.

We have received our Jacksonville exchanges of Thursday morning. Accounts from Fort Myers of the 9th instant report a skirmish with a small band of Indians and Lieut. FREEMAN, United States army, with sixty men. Lieut. Freeman himself was wounded. Four others were wounded, four killed, and four drummer boys missing. This includes three different engagements with Indians on the part of Lieut. Freeman and a relief detachment under Lieut. ARCHER. Twenty Indians were seen at one time, and it is supposed they were one hundred in all at that place, and resolved on desperate fight. Capt. STEVENSON, from Fort Keats, set out on the 10th, and would be joined soon by Gen. HARNEY and escort, to seek the Indians in their camps. Additional details are anxiously expected, as it is believed the hiding places have been discovered.—*Charleston Courier*.

GOOD ADVICE BADLY RECEIVED.—GOVERNOR GARDNER, of Massachusetts, in his recent proclamation for the annual State Fair, made the following excellent suggestions to the clergy:

"May those called to minister at God's altar, impressed with the truth that national transgressions can only be corrected by removing individual sins, abstain from political discussion and secular considerations." This suggestion, says the Boston Atlas, is "not received by the public in a manner complimentary to his Excellency," and quotes paragraphs from several papers in illustration of the fact. Nevertheless it is eminently just. Men are much more willing to humble themselves for the sins of others than for their own. With the Pharisee's pride they can lament the condition of "this publican," but have no conception of the fact that in the sight of God he is a better man than they. Rebuke is often most needed where it is least expected.

There are now sixteen schooners en route to Richmond (Va.) from Baltimore, to be used in the two cities equal to be very extensive to justify the employment of so many vessels, to say nothing of the two fine steamers regularly plying between the two ports.

A mill belonging to Christian Stoffer, and rented to John Hoover, situated on the Antietam creek, between Leithsburg and Waynesboro, (Md.) was destroyed by fire on Saturday night last, with 6,000 bushels of wheat and 100 barrels of flour. There was no insurance.